

Course Title	African American Literature				
Course Code	LIT345				
Course Type	Elective				
Level	Bachelor (1 st Cycle)				
Year / Semester	4 th Year / 7 th Semester				
Teacher's Name	TBA				
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	Up to 6 teleconferences	Laboratories / week	N/A
Course Purpose and Objectives	<p>This course will be conducted as a survey of major periods, authors and genres in the African American literary tradition. The student will learn to define the origins, relevance and scope of this variant of American literature, drawn from the African tradition and molded by the African diaspora. There will be reading and analysis of vernacular traditions; philosophical and political treatises; autobiographies; short and long fiction; journal writing; poetry and drama. The course will extend from the early 18th Century until the present time.</p>				
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze and interpret African-American literature in light of its thematic, historical, political and formal specificities Apply key terminology used in African-American Literature studies, including race, ethnicity, class, sexism, inequality, civil rights, black nationalism and revolution Discuss the different genres and movements within African-American literary history Critically analyze texts applying theoretical knowledge to cultural, social and historical debates within the field of African-American literature. Produce a longer research paper in relation to the course content 				
Prerequisites	ENL110, LIT105, LIT200	Co-requisites		None	
Course Content	<p>The course begins with an introduction to the study of African American literature. Students will understand that the African American writer, either directly or indirectly, is in a continuous process of exploration of what Africa is, what it means to him or her, and what it means to the world at large. Under the chronology of the period of the 'Middle Passage' main emphasis is given to the central classical feature of African American literary discourse - the slave narrative. The famous autobiographical narratives of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs are the main focus of discussion.</p> <p>The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s shows the African American writer celebrating folk ways on the one hand and the creation of high art on the other, looking towards Africa as a source of inspiration. The romanticization of Africa through nostalgia emerges in the works of Langston Hughes and</p>				

	<p>Claude McKay along with an engagement with troubled race relations in the United States. Early explorations of the particular position of women in a racialized America are explored through the writing by Zora Neale Hurston. The period from the 1960s onwards sees African American literary tradition expressed in multiple ways during the turbulent period of the Civil Rights Movement. Students study thinkers and activists such as Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, also in relation to earlier 19th Century spokespersons such as Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. du Bois. African American women writers are no longer marginal to the literature of America. The discussion shows that the feminist texts from the 1970s onwards (e.g. by Maya Angelou, Alice Walker, Toni Morrison) make a commitment to the exploration of self and the particular struggle of black women in a patriarchal and racialized environment.</p>				
Teaching Methodology	E-Learning				
Bibliography	<p>Gates, H.L. 2004. <i>The Norton Anthology of African American Literature</i>. Norton.</p> <p>Graham, Maryemma (ed.). 2006. <i>The Cambridge Companion to the African American Novel</i>. Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>hooks, bell. 2014. <i>Ain't I a Woman?</i>. Routledge</p> <p>hooks, bell. 2004. <i>We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Williams, Heather Andrea. 2015. <i>American Slavery: A Very Short Introduction</i>. Oxford University Press.</p>				
Assessment	<table border="1" data-bbox="526 1184 1224 1289"> <tr> <td data-bbox="526 1184 1089 1236">Final Examination</td> <td data-bbox="1089 1184 1224 1236">50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="526 1236 1089 1289">Assignments/On-going Evaluation</td> <td data-bbox="1089 1236 1224 1289">50%</td> </tr> </table>	Final Examination	50%	Assignments/On-going Evaluation	50%
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Language	English				